

What is Claimed is:

1. A system for authenticating a product via the Internet comprising:
  - 5 a non-contact tag embedded as an authentication device in a product to be authenticated, said non-contact tag having a specific ID known only to an administrator of said product authentication system, and said ID being stored in a body of said non-contact tag as electronic data;
  - 10 a reader for reading ID data of said non-contact tag, said reader having a specific ID known only to said administrator of said product authentication system, said ID being stored in a body of said reader as electronic data, and said reader having means for connecting to the Internet for communication;
  - 15 a database for storing said ID data and attributes data of said non-contact tag, product information data of said product having said non-contact tag embedded therein, and said ID data and attribute information data of said reader, said database having means for connecting to the Internet for communication;
  - 20 a data server for reading data stored in said database and for writing data into said database, said data server having means for connecting to the Internet for communication;
  - 25 an authentication server for checking said ID data of said reader and said ID data of said non-contact tag sent from said reader connected to the Internet against data stored in said database to authenticate

said reader and said non-contact tag, said authentication server having means for connecting to the Internet for communication,

      said product authentication system further comprising:

      means for, prior to distribution of said non-contact tag and  
5      said reader to a user of said product authentication system, making  
      said data server read said ID data of said non-contact tag and said  
      ID data of said reader, create data files thereof, and store said  
      data files in said database;

      means for, subsequent to the distribution of said non-contact  
10    tag and said reader to said user of said product authentication system,  
      making said reader connected to the Internet send its own ID data  
      to said authentication server, and making said authentication server  
      check said received ID data of said reader against said data file  
      of said reader stored in said database;

15      means for making said authentication server notify said reader  
      checked against said identical ID data that said reader is  
      authenticated, and urge said reader to send said ID data of said  
      non-contact tag embedded in said product;

      means for making said authenticated reader read said ID data  
20    of said non-contact tag embedded in said product and send said ID  
      data to said authentication server, and making said authentication  
      server check said received ID data of said non-contact tag against  
      said data file of said non-contact tag stored in said database; and

      means for making said authentication server notify said reader  
25    which sent said ID data of said non-contact tag that said non-contact

tag checked against said identical ID data is authenticated.

2. The product authentication system as defined in claim 1,  
wherein said product authentication system is administered and  
5 operated by an application service provider (ASP) to provide product  
authentication service via the Internet in an ASP system.

3. A product authentication system as defined in claim 1 or  
2, wherein said product authentication system is a product  
10 authentication system where the side of said user is made to have  
a double ID by assigning to said user of said reader a specific password  
known only to said administrator and said user of said reader, said  
product authentication system comprising:

means for making said data server read data of said assigned  
15 password, create a data file thereof as attribute information related  
to said ID data of said distributed reader, and store said data file  
in said database;

means for, after said reader is notified of its authentication,  
making said authentication server request input of said password  
20 of said user, receive password data inputted and sent from a terminal  
of said user, and check said password data against said data file  
stored in said database; and

means for making said authentication server notify said user  
terminal which sent said password data that said password checked  
25 against said identical password data is authenticated.

4. A product authentication system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, comprising:

means for making said reader and said user terminal distributed  
5 to the manufacturer of the product who is said user of said product authentication system send to said data server product information data such as the name, the model, the date of manufacture, and the place of manufacture of said product, said product information data being related to said ID data of said non-contact tag; and  
10 means for making said data server receive said product information data and create a data file as attribute information related to said ID data of said embedded non-contact tag, and store said data file in said database.

15 5. A product authentication system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising:

means for making a manufacturer of said non-contact tag create a data file where said ID of said non-contact tag is related to said manufacturer of said product who is a supplier of said non-contact  
20 tag, and send said data file to said data server;

means for making said data server receive said data file and store said data file in said database; and

means for making said authentication server receive said ID data of said non-contact tag sent from said reader, and check whether  
25 said ID is related to said supplier in said data file of said

non-contact tag stored in said database.

6. A system for authenticating a product via the Internet comprising:

5        a non-contact tag embedded as an authentication device in a product to be authenticated, said non-contact tag having a specific ID known only to an administrator of said product authentication system, and said ID being stored in a body of said non-contact tag as electronic data;

10      a reader for reading ID data of said non-contact tag, said reader having a specific ID known only to said administrator of said product authentication system, said ID being stored in a body of said reader as electronic data, and said reader having means for connecting to the Internet for communication;

15      a database for storing said ID data and attributes data of said non-contact tag, product information data of said product having said non-contact tag embedded therein, and said ID data and attribute information data of said reader, said database having means for connecting to the Internet for communication;

20      a data server for reading data stored in said database and for writing data into said database, said data server having means for connecting to the Internet for communication;

25      an authentication server for checking said ID data of said reader and said ID data of said non-contact tag sent from said reader connected to the Internet against data stored in said database to authenticate

5 said reader and said non-contact tag, said authentication server  
having means for connecting to the Internet for communication,  
wherein said product authentication system is administered and  
operated by an application service provider (ASP) to provide product  
authentication service via the Internet in an ASP system.